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S STATES-ITEM

Hopes Dim for Novel Extradition--Governor

Gov. John J. McKeithen said today there are strong indications the state will not be able to extradite Gordon Novel, the fugitive witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

Also, the governor said, in a Baton Rouge news conference, Gov. John Connally of Texas has written him that he would prefer that another missing witness, Sergio Arcacha Smith of Dallas, be returned to Louisiana under the Uniform Witness Act rather than as a fugitive on a burglary conspiracy charge.

In another development related to Garrison's investigation, the Metropolitan Crime Commission today urged Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to investigate charges that Garrison's office attempted to bribe and intimidate a witness.

IN A LETTER signed by MCC President E. C. Upton Jr. and managing director Aaron M. Kohn, the MCC cited an article in Newsweek Magazine making the charge against Garrison.

Garrison has been trying to extradite Arcacha and Novel on charges of conspiracy to burglarize a munitions dump at Houma in 1961.

Bringing the witnesses back under the reciprocal witness act would give them immunity from arrest on any charge.

Gov. Connally told Gov. McKeithen he would hold the extradition request in abeyance.

GOV. M'KEITHEN SAID the Ohio governor, who had previously rejected extradition papers, now wants to know the authority of an assistant DA to file a complaint.

He said he has made four or five telephone calls to Ohio Gov. James Rhodes, but Rhodes has refused to return his calls.